

Speech Outlines (Topic 2: Self-Driving Vehicles)

DESCRIPTION:

Please watch the required “explainer” videos to remind us how to make speeches, rebuttals, and rejoinders – as well as familiarize us with what “Voting Issues” are and how we use them in debate. Please fill out the “Student” outlines starting with writing arguments, and then we need to write rebuttals too (against our own arguments). We need to practice speaking the arguments and the rebuttals from the outlines.

Note: *We will also fill out the “Rejoinders” and “Voting Issues” later (FYI).*

[‘Explainer’ Articles & Videos] “WeTransfer” link (expires July 2024): <https://we.tl/t-z1mcCRCPTI>

[Topic-Related Articles & Videos] “WeTransfer” link (expires July 2024): <https://we.tl/t-tabELUUXTF>

ANIMATED “EXPLAINER” VIDEOS (REQUIRED): Use “WeTransfer” if unable to use the links.

[Video-06] Making “Speeches” in Debate, [2 min] https://vimeo.com/845858677/c1c190caa6	[Video-07] “Rebuttals” in Debate, [2 min] https://vimeo.com/845862738/a7b91a7c6a
[Video-08] Making “Rejoinders” in Debate, [4 min] https://vimeo.com/845862738/a7b91a7c6a	[Video-09] “Voting Issues” in Debate, [2 min] https://vimeo.com/845862738/a7b91a7c6a
[Video-00] Public Forum Debate Explained, [4 min] https://vimeo.com/845814810/6971c5242d	[PDF] “Public Forum” Debate (Explained)

SPEECH OUTLINES FOR STUDENTS (FORMS): Self-driving vehicles

1. **T-Charts:** This is a collection of ideas divided into PROs and CONs of the debate topic. We use the T-chart to organize our ideas and from these ideas we will make evidence for our arguments.
2. **Introductions:** This helps students to politely introduce themselves and introduce the topic. It is also a formality that satisfies the audience’s expectations.
3. **Arguments:** In English writing, this serves the same function as a “Body Paragraph,” which is understood to be a topic sentence followed by supporting detail. Debate is similar in that we make a statement about the topic, and we support that statement with two or three pieces of evidence.
4. **Speeches:** We make a speech by starting with an introduction and then we provide two or three arguments supporting our side of the debate topic.
5. **Rebuttals:** We are expected to “refute (disagree)” with the arguments provided by the opposing team. The out line we use is called “4-Step Refutation (they said, we say, because, and therefore).”
6. **Rejoinders:** We are expected to defend our arguments from the opposing team’s rebuttals. Their burden is to disagree with us, and our burden is to disagree back (to defend our arguments).
7. **Voting Issues:** At the end of the debate, the final speakers will attempt to convince the judge that their side has won the debate. They do this by converting their arguments into “voting issues”. So, we make a concluding argument to persuade the judge to “vote” for our side of the debate.
8. **Modes of Persuasion (Aristotle):** This is not an outline, but rather advice as to how to be more convincing or more “persuasive” (synonyms). We should be logical, emotional, and credible. The above video helps us to better understand these guiding principles of persuasion.
 Note: *Coach Bill teaches us to be “Clear, Confident, and Credible” and he advises that we also be “Compassionate” and show good “Character” as well. These traits are the foundation for excellence in debate speaking and competitions.*

[SAMPLE] INTRODUCTION (PRO): Self-Driving Vehicles

“Hello my name is Coach Bill. Today, we will discuss: Self-driving vehicles.”

My partner and I believe that Self-driving vehicles are desirable.

To begin, let’s discuss... Saving Lives.”

[SAMPLE] ARGUMENT (PRO): Self-driving vehicles

Statement: [Debate topic] will [Help or Harm]: _____.

Self-driving vehicles will help save lives,

Elaboration: because... [Briefly “Explain”]

Because... they will drive safely, and won’t get drunk, tired, or read/send text messages.

Evidence/Examples: For example... [Provide some “Proof” (Evidence and/or Reasoning)]

For example...

1. *First... Making Fewer Mistakes*

S: According to... Environmental Conscience, Last Accessed: July 2023

<https://environmental-conscience.com/self-driving-cars-pros-cons/>

F: It states... Unlike humans, a self-driving car doesn’t get distracted leading to fewer mistakes and fewer accidents while driving.

C: This means... self-driving vehicles will protect millions of people by reducing mistakes while driving.

2. *Also... Reducing Traffic Accidents*

S: According to... Environmental Conscience, Last Accessed: July 2023

<https://environmental-conscience.com/self-driving-cars-pros-cons/>

F: It states... Many accidents are caused because drivers fall asleep while driving. However, machines don't get tired, so accidents could be greatly reduced.

C: This means... using self-driving vehicles can protect millions of people from serious or even deadly injuries by not getting tired while driving.

Illustration: Imagine... [Explain the “Impacts”]

Imagine... how much safer the roads will be, especially when self-driving vehicles will follow the speed limit and not take dangerous risks.

Transition: Therefore... [Repeat the “Statement (from above)”]

Therefore... self-driving vehicles will save lives! (“Thank you”).

[SAMPLE] INTRODUCTION (CON): Self-driving vehicles

“Hello my name is Coach Bill. Today, we will discuss: Self-driving vehicles.”

My partner and I believe that Self-driving vehicles are undesirable.

To begin, let’s discuss... Risking Lives.”

[SAMPLE] ARGUMENTS (CON): Self-driving vehicles

Statement: [Debate topic] will [Help or **Harm**]: _____.

Using self-driving vehicles will risk lives,

Elaboration: because... [Briefly “Explain”]

because... self-driving vehicles malfunction and can cause traffic accidents when unpredictable things happen.

Evidence/Examples: For example... [Provide some “Proof” (Evidence and/or Reasoning)]

For Example...

1. *First... Vehicles Can Malfunction*

According to... Network World, March 6, 2017.

It says... Robotic devices are not at all perfect and they frequently fail to do their tasks properly and people can end up getting hurt as a result.

This means... Using self-driving vehicles will put millions of lives at risk because when these cars make a mistake it can cause a serious or even deadly injury.

2. *Also... Unreliable During Storms*

According to... Vittana.org, April 1, 2019.

It says... Self-driving vehicles may not work properly when the weather conditions get bad causing people to get stuck or to have to take over the driving.

This means... Using self-driving vehicles can threaten people’s safety when getting stuck in places where there is low visibility as the vehicle can get hit.

Illustration: Imagine... [Explain the “Impacts”]

Imagine... how awful it will be for millions of people who get stuck in a self-driving car because it started to rain, or an unexpected fog rolled in. This could be quite dangerous!

Transition: Therefore... [Repeat the “Statement (from above)”]

Therefore... self-driving vehicles will risk lives! Our next argument is... (or “Thank you”).

[STUDENT] INTRODUCTION (PRO): Self-driving vehicles

“Hello my name is _____. Today, we will discuss: Self-driving vehicles_____.

My partner and I believe Self-driving vehicles_____ are desirable.

To begin, let’s discuss... _____.”

[STUDENT] ARGUMENT-01 (PRO): Self-driving vehicles

Statement: *Using self-driving vehicles will...* _____

Elaboration: because... _____

Evidence: For example...

1. *First...* _____

According to... _____

[Explain] _____

2. *Also...* _____

According to... _____

[Explain] _____

Illustration: Imagine... [*Please skip this for now!*]

Transition: Therefore... _____

“Thank you.”

[STUDENT] ARGUMENT-02 (PRO): Self-driving vehicles

Statement: *Using self-driving vehicles will...* _____

Elaboration: because... _____

Evidence: For example...

1. *First...* _____

According to... _____

[Explain] _____

2. *Also...* _____

According to... _____

[Explain] _____

Illustration: Imagine... [*Please skip this for now!*]

Transition: Therefore... _____

"Thank you."

[STUDENT] INTRODUCTION (CON): Self-driving vehicles

“Hello my name is _____. Today, we will discuss: Self-driving vehicles_____.

My partner and I believe Self-driving vehicles_____ are undesirable.

To begin, let’s discuss... _____.”

[STUDENT] ARGUMENT-01 (CON): Self-driving vehicles

Statement: *Using self-driving vehicles will...* _____

Elaboration: because... _____

Evidence: For example...

1. *First...* _____

According to... _____

[Explain] _____

2. *Also...* _____

According to... _____

[Explain] _____

Illustration: Imagine... [*Please skip this for now!*]

Transition: Therefore... _____

“Thank you.”

[STUDENT] ARGUMENT-02 (CON): Self-driving vehicles

Statement: *Using self-driving vehicles will...* _____

Elaboration: because... _____

Evidence: For example...

1. *First...* _____

According to... _____

[Explain] _____

2. *Also...* _____

According to... _____

[Explain] _____

Illustration: Imagine... [*Please skip this for now!*]

Transition: Therefore... _____

"Thank you."

[SAMPLE] INTRODUCTION FOR REBUTTALS (PRO): Self-Driving Cars

In this speech, I will REFUTE each of the opposing team's arguments.

The first argument I will refute is... Risking Lives ."

[SAMPLE] REBUTTAL (PRO): vs. Self-Driving Vehicles Will Risk Lives

They Said... [Debate topic] will [Help or Harm]: _____.

Using self-driving vehicles will risk lives,

We Say... [Debate topic] will "Not" [Help or Harm]: _____.

Using self-driving vehicles will "Not" risk lives,

Because... [Provide some "Proof" (Evidence and/or Reasoning)]

1. *First...* Testing Prevents Malfunctions

According to... Nature, March 22, 2023

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-023-00868-7>

It says... self-driving vehicles can be tested thoroughly by using AI to create virtual problems and test the car's ability to handle each situation.

This proves... self-driving vehicles will not make many mistakes when driving due to the amount of testing that will be done with new methods of testing.

2. *Also...* Testing for Weather Conditions

According to... National Institute of Standards and Technology, Jan 18, 2023.

<https://www.nist.gov/blogs/taking-measure/cruising-toward-self-driving-cars-standards-and-testing-will-help-keep>

It says... self-driving vehicles are fully tested in a variety of ways and these tests are faster and easier to do because there are no human drivers involved.

This proves... self-driving vehicles can be tested under all kinds of weather conditions to make sure they can get people safely to their destination.

Therefore... [Repeat the "We Say... (Without the 'we say' part)"]

Therefore... self-driving vehicles will NOT risk lives!

The next argument I will refute is... or "Thank you".

[SAMPLE] INTRODUCTION FOR REBUTTALS (CON): Self-Driving Cars

In this speech, I will REFUTE each of the opposing team's arguments.

The first argument I will refute is... Saving Lives ."

[SAMPLE] REBUTTAL (CON): vs. Robots Saving Lives

They Said... [Debate topic] will [Help or Harm]: _____.

Using self-driving vehicles will save lives,

We Say... [Debate topic] will "Not" [Help or Harm]: _____.

Using self-driving vehicles will "Not" save lives,

Because... [Provide "Evidence" (or proof)]

1. *First... Vehicles Will Malfunction*

According to... Network World, March 6, 2017.

It says... Robotic machines are not at all perfect and they frequently fail to do their tasks properly and people can get hurt as a result.

This means... Self-driving vehicles can be dangerous to millions of people due to possibility that there might be a malfunction.

2. *Also... Many Risks to Safety*

Seidman Law Offices, December 13, 2021

<https://www.seidmanlaw.net/blog/are-self-driving-cars-dangerous/>

It says... self-driving vehicles suffer from computer and physical problems, such as operating in hazardous weather, which can prevent its sensors from working.

This means... Self-driving vehicles can still be very dangerous to millions of people because so many different things can go wrong.

Therefore... [Repeat the "We Say... (Without the 'we say' part)"]

Therefore... self-driving vehicles will NOT save lives!

The next argument I will refute is... or "Thank you".

[STUDENT] INTRODUCTION FOR REBUTTALS (PRO): Self-Driving Car

In this speech, I will REFUTE each of the opposing team’s arguments.

The first argument I will refute is... _____

[STUDENT] REBUTTAL-01 (PRO): vs. _____

They Said... Using self-driving vehicles will... _____

We Say... Using self-driving vehicles will NOT... _____

Because...

1. *First...* _____

Our research says...

[Explain] _____

[Disprove] _____

2. *Also...* _____

Our research says...

[Explain] _____

[Disprove] _____

Therefore... Using self-driving vehicles will NOT... _____

The next argument I will refute is... _____

[or] “Thank you.”

[STUDENT] REBUTTAL-02 (PRO): vs. _____

They Said... Using self-driving vehicles will... _____

We Say... Using self-driving vehicles will NOT... _____

Because...

1. *First...* _____

Our research says...

[Explain] _____

[Disprove] _____

2. *Also...* _____

Our research says...

[Explain] _____

[Disprove] _____

Therefore... Using self-driving vehicles will NOT... _____

The next argument I will refute is... _____

[or] "Thank you."

[STUDENT] INTRODUCTION FOR REBUTTALS (CON): Self-Driving Car

In this speech, I will REFUTE each of the opposing team’s arguments.

The first argument I will refute is... _____

[STUDENT] REBUTTAL-01 (CON): vs. _____

They Said... Using self-driving vehicles will... _____

We Say... Using self-driving vehicles will NOT... _____

Because...

1. *First...* _____

Our research says...

[Explain] _____

[Disprove] _____

2. *Also...* _____

Our research says...

[Explain] _____

[Disprove] _____

Therefore... Using self-driving vehicles will NOT... _____

The next argument I will refute is... _____

[or] “Thank you.”

[STUDENT] REBUTTAL-02 (CON): vs. _____

They Said... Using self-driving vehicles will... _____

We Say... Using self-driving vehicles will NOT... _____

Because...

1. *First...* _____

Our research says...

[Explain] _____

[Disprove] _____

2. *Also...* _____

Our research says...

[Explain] _____

[Disprove] _____

Therefore... Using self-driving vehicles will NOT... _____

The next argument I will refute is... _____

[or] "Thank you."

[SAMPLE] INTRODUCTION FOR REJOINDERS (PRO): Self-Driving Cars

In this speech, I will DEFEND each of my team’s arguments.

The first argument I will defend is... SAVING LIVES.”

[SAMPLE] REJOINDER OUTLINE (PRO): Self-Driving Vehicles

They said we were wrong about: SAVING LIVES

However, we were “not” wrong because...

1. First... TESTING PREVENTS MALFUNCTIONS

Our research says...

[Explain] Companies will test the vehicles to ensure that they work properly, because they don’t want to lose money from a lawsuit if their car hurts someone.

[Disprove] So... It was incorrect for them to say that there will be malfunctions!

2. First... PREVENTING DEADLY ACCIDENTS

Our research says...

[Explain] Using self-driving vehicles can prevent accidents, because robots don’t get distracted and they are more accurate than humans.

[Disprove] So... It was incorrect to say that bad weather will increase accidents!

Therefore, we were “not” wrong about: SAVING LIVES

The next argument I will defend is... _____

[or] “Thank you.”

[SAMPLE] INTRODUCTION FOR REJOINDERS (CON): Self-Driving Cars

In this speech, I will DEFEND each of my team’s arguments.

The first argument I will defend is... RISKING LIVES.”

[SAMPLE] REJOINDER OUTLINE (CON): Self-Driving Vehicles

They said we were wrong about: RISKING LIVES

However, we were “not” wrong because...

1. First... CAN’T HANDLE UNEXPECTED THINGS

Our research says...

[Explain] Self-driving vehicles lack common sense and will not react properly when unexpected things happen while driving due to the machine’s lack of experience.

[Disprove] So... It was incorrect for them to say that testing will prevent mistakes because many things cannot be tested until it actually happens!

2. Also... TESTING WON’T PREVENT MALFUNCTIONS

Our research says...

[Explain] Companies will test the vehicles, but there are too many things to test and they don’t have enough time and resources to test it completely.

[Disprove] So... It was incorrect for them to say that testing prevents malfunctions!

Therefore, we were “not” wrong about: RISKING LIVES

The next argument I will defend is... _____

[or] “Thank you.”

[STUDENT] INTRODUCTION FOR REJOINDERS (PRO): Self-Driving Car

In this speech, I will DEFEND each of my team’s arguments.

The first argument I will defend is... _____

[STUDENT] REJOINDER OUTLINE 01 (PRO): Self-Driving Vehicles

They said we were wrong about: _____

However, we were “not” wrong because...

1. *First...* _____

Our research says...

[Explain] _____

[Disprove] _____

2. *Also...* _____

Our research says...

[Explain] _____

[Disprove] _____

Therefore, we were “not” wrong about: _____

The next argument I will defend is... _____

[or] “Thank you.”

[STUDENT] REJOINDER OUTLINE 02 (PRO): Self-Driving Vehicles

They said we were wrong about: _____

However, we were “not” wrong because...

1. *First...* _____

Our research says...

[Explain] _____

[Disprove] _____

2. *Also...* _____

Our research says...

[Explain] _____

[Disprove] _____

Therefore, we were “not” wrong about: _____

The next argument I will defend is... _____

[or] “Thank you.”

[STUDENT] INTRODUCTION FOR REJOINDERS (CON): Self-Driving Car

In this speech, I will DEFEND each of my team’s arguments.

The first argument I will defend is... _____

[STUDENT] REJOINDER OUTLINE 01 (CON): Self-Driving Vehicles

They said we were wrong about: _____

However, we were “not” wrong because...

1. *First...* _____

Our research says...

[Explain] _____

[Disprove] _____

2. *Also...* _____

Our research says...

[Explain] _____

[Disprove] _____

Therefore, we were “not” wrong about: _____

The next argument I will defend is... _____

[or] “Thank you.”

[STUDENT] REJOINDER OUTLINE 02 (CON): Self-Driving Vehicles

They said we were wrong about: _____

However, we were “not” wrong because...

1. *First...* _____

Our research says...

[Explain] _____

[Disprove] _____

2. *Also...* _____

Our research says...

[Explain] _____

[Disprove] _____

Therefore, we were “not” wrong about: _____

The next argument I will defend is... _____

[or] “Thank you.”

[SAMPLE] INTRODUCTION = VOTING ISSUES (PRO): Self-Driving Cars

In this speech, I will PRESENT each of my team’s Voting Issues.

The first Voting Issue I will present is... SAVING LIVES.”

[SAMPLE] VOTING ISSUES OUTLINE 01 (PRO): Self-Driving Vehicles

[Choose] We think **the most** ~~or another~~ important argument is... SAVING LIVES

because... they can reduce accidents by preventing human error.

[Convince] We think we are winning this argument because... **[Please skip this section]**

1. First... _____

[Explain] _____

2. Also... _____

[Explain] _____

[Compare] So...

1. If you vote for the PRO side... INJURIES & DEATHS ARE PREVENTED

[Explain] Millions of lives are protected because self-driving cars will prevent accidents, and make driving much safer.

2. If you vote for the CON side... MANY LIVES MAY BE LOST

[Explain] Millions of people will be much less safe because they will end up driving too fast and doing really dangerous things while driving (Self-driving cars won't!).

The next voting issue I will present it is...

[or]

So, for all these reasons, please vote for the PRO side of this debate. “Thank you.”

[SAMPLE] INTRODUCTION = VOTING ISSUES (CON): Self-Driving Cars

In this speech, I will PRESENT each of my team’s Voting Issues.

The first Voting Issue I will present is... RISKING LIVES.”

[SAMPLE] VOTING ISSUES OUTLINE 01 (CON): Self-Driving Vehicles

[Choose] We think **the most** ~~or another~~ important argument is... RISKING LIVES

because... self-driving cars are not reliable enough to replace human drivers.

[Convince] We think we are winning this argument because... **[Please skip this section]**

1. First... _____

[Explain] _____

2. Also... _____

[Explain] _____

[Compare] So...

1. If you vote for the PRO side... MALFUNCTIONS CAN BE FATAL

[Explain] Millions of lives are at risk because when a self-driving vehicle

malfunctions it can cause serious or even deadly injuries to people.

2. If you vote for the CON side... MANY LIVES ARE SAVED

[Explain] Millions of people will be safer suffer because humans will do a better

job of driving during dangerous situations because they have more experience.

The next voting issue I will present it is...

[or]

So, for all these reasons, please vote for the CON side of this debate. “Thank you.”

[STUDENT] INTRODUCTION = VOTING ISSUES (PRO): Self-Driving Car

In this speech, I will PRESENT each of my team’s Voting Issues.

The first Voting Issue I will present is... _____

[STUDENT] VOTING ISSUES OUTLINE 01 (PRO): Self-Driving Vehicles

[Choose] We think [the most or another] important argument is... _____

because... _____

[Convince] We think we are winning this argument because... [Please skip this section]

1. First... _____

[Explain] _____

2. Also... _____

[Explain] _____

[Compare] So...

1. If you vote for the PRO side... _____

[Explain] _____

2. If you vote for the CON side... _____

[Explain] _____

The next voting issue I will present it is...

[or]

So, for all these reasons, please vote for the PRO side of this debate. “Thank you.”

[STUDENT] VOTING ISSUES OUTLINE 02 (PRO): Self-Driving Vehicles

[Choose] *We think [the most or another] important argument is... _____*

because... _____

[Convince] *We think we are winning this argument because... [Please skip this section]*

1. *First... _____*

[Explain] _____

2. *Also... _____*

[Explain] _____

[Compare] *So...*

1. *If you vote for the PRO side... _____*

[Explain] _____

2. *If you vote for the CON side... _____*

[Explain] _____

So, for all these reasons, please vote for the PRO side of this debate. "Thank you."

[STUDENT] INTRODUCTION = VOTING ISSUES (CON): Self-Driving Car

In this speech, I will PRESENT each of my team’s Voting Issues.

The first Voting Issue I will present is... _____

[STUDENT] VOTING ISSUES OUTLINE 01 (CON): Self-Driving Vehicles

[Choose] We think **the most** or another] *important argument is...* _____

because... _____

[Convince] *We think we are winning this argument because...* **[Please skip this section]**

1. *First...* _____

[Explain] _____

2. *Also...* _____

[Explain] _____

[Compare] *So...*

1. *If you vote for the PRO side...* _____

[Explain] _____

2. *If you vote for the CON side...* _____

[Explain] _____

The next voting issue I will present it is...

[or]

So, for all these reasons, please vote for the CON side of this debate. “Thank you.”

[STUDENT] VOTING ISSUES OUTLINE 02 (CON): Self-Driving Vehicles

[Choose] *We think [the most or another] important argument is... _____*

because... _____

[Convince] *We think we are winning this argument because... [Please skip this section]*

1. *First... _____*

[Explain] _____

2. *Also... _____*

[Explain] _____

[Compare] *So...*

1. *If you vote for the PRO side... _____*

[Explain] _____

2. *If you vote for the CON side... _____*

[Explain] _____

So, for all these reasons, please vote for the CON side of this debate. "Thank you."

